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DORMS

Continued from Page 19

RA for two years. "RAs can help you through that and familiarize you with everything."

"All the options the University has to offer is sometimes hard for someone new to absorb," said Lynelle Torikai, who was an RA for one year and a student manager for one year.

"I recommend for residents to go to the two hall meetings during the first week," Tuomi said. "RAs talk about the policies and regulations and you can get a feel for the style of the RA."

Tuomi also recommends residents read the handbook mailed out during the summer, which outlines policies for university housing.

Jones, Torikai and Tuomi agreed that the alcohol policy is the hardest to enforce. Students, on the other hand, probably find this policy the hardest to obey.

In brief, alcohol is allowed in most dorms for residents 21 or

over, but in their rooms only. Residents should review the full alcohol policy in their dorm contracts for details.

"Most may think busting parties is the most common problem we deal with, but there's a lot more to it," Jones said. "It's just that it's more visible because there are a lot of people at parties."

"The drinking policy was harsh," said Valerie Ebmer, a senior majoring in journalism who lived in the dorms for two years. She explained that her friends who were 21 or older once had alcohol taken away from them because they lived in a non-drinking dorm. She said she believed this was a little ridiculous.

"RAs have to realize that this is the first time people lived away from home. It's kind of a new-found freedom and they're going to try and see what they can get away with," Cogdell said. "RAs have to be patient and realize this."

Cogdell said everyone, including residents, has to cooperate and that RAs "just happen to have the responsibility to enforce the policies," including the drinking policy.

Another RA nightmare is dorm residents who lock themselves out of the dorm at night — when RAs would rather be sound asleep and dreaming.

"Remember your keys," Tuomi said. "Try to make it a habit. One way to get your RA annoyed at you is to forget your keys frequently."

Noise level is a never-ending



Photo by Sean Poston

Coffee makers are not allowed in dorms.

battle for both RAs and residents.

"There's very little personal space," said Andrew Oldham, a senior majoring in English who lived in the dorms his freshman year. "It makes it hard to put up with the noise. But, it was a good experience, in a way. It helped me learn how to deal with others."

"With any problem, we try to make the residents work them out before going to their RA," Jones said. "If we step right in it makes us look like the good guys or bad guys right away."

All dorms have quiet hours when blasting stereos and bouncing basketballs are prohibited for the peace of mind of other residents. The number of quiet hours and the schedule

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